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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Z.Q. Xia et al.

Attorney Docket No.: WSUR116430

Application No.: 09/673,918

Group Art Unit: 1652

Filed: January 2, 2001

Examiner: Yong D. Pak

Title: RECOMBINANT SECOISOLARICIRESINOL DEHYDROGENASE AND
METHODS OF USE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 11-17 and 22-23. All pending claims thus presented for examination are as follows:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase protein that hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:9 or to the antisense complement of any member of the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:9 under conditions of 4 X SSC at 35°C.

2. A nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1 encoding a gymnosperm secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase protein.

3. A nucleic acid molecule of Claim 2 encoding a secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase protein from a genus selected from the group consisting of *Podocarpus*, *Tsuga*, *Pinus*, *Thuja*, *Araucaria*, *Juniperus* and *Taiwania*.

4. A nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1 encoding an angiosperm secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase protein.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100